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1965.

PLYMOUTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

DR. T. PETERSON.

GENERAL.

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

There was a slight increase in the number and tonnage of ships entering the port during the year compared with 1964. (Table B)  
Passenger traffic has fallen to a comparatively low level owing to the discontinuance of regular calls by passenger liners. (Table C)







Section I - Staff.

Table A.

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
T. Peirson	Port Medical Officer	5.12.32	M.D., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
G.B. Carter	Deputy Port Medical Officer	5.7.48	M.D., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Senior School Medical Officer, City of Plymouth.
L. Miller	Port Health and Food Inspector	1.4.63	Sanitary Inspectors Certificate, Diploma for Insp. of Meat & Other Foods	

Address and Telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:

Port Health Office: Millbay Docks, Plymouth.

Tel.: Plymouth 68000, Ext. 2229 by day.

Tel.: Plymouth 68000 at night and week-end.

City Office: Municipal Offices, City Centre, Plymouth.

Tel.: Plymouth 68000.







## Section II

Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	748	523,087	10	627	1
Coastwise	1,254	844,731	1	834	-
Total	2,002	1,369,818	11	1,461	1

There was an increase of 63 ships and tonnage of 49,491 entering the port compared with 1964.

## Section III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year.

Table C

Passenger	Number of Passengers INWARDS .....	2,570
Traffic	Number of Passengers OUTWARDS .....	2,421

The total number of passengers remaining on board passenger carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (exclusive of those shown above) was 1,035.

There was an increase of 215 passengers inwards and a decrease of 106 passengers outwards during 1965.







## Principal Imports

### Foreign:

Preserved meat and cheese from Holland.  
Fresh fruit and vegetables from Holland and France.  
Timber from Canada, Sweden, Poland, Russia and Finland.  
Grain from Canada, Holland, France and Roumania.  
Fuel oil from the Persian Gulf and West Indies.  
Agricultural machinery and paper pulp from Sweden.  
Fertilisers from Belgium, Holland and Germany.  
Matches, wines and spirits from Holland and Sweden.  
Tinned milk from Holland.  
Breeding cattle from France.  
Fresh fruit from Cyprus.  
Peanuts from Holland.  
Confectionery from Holland.  
Cheese and wine from Cyprus.  
Oyster shells from Frederiksbund.  
Salt from Stettin.  
Clinker from North Africa.  
Phosphates from Sfax.







Coastal:

Coal from South Wales and North East Ports.

Petrol, oil and paraffin from Fawley, Hamble, Milford Haven, and Swansea.

Fertilisers from London and Tinsmingham.

Cement from London.

Potatoes from Northern Ireland.

Cooking fats, tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish, confectionery, sugar, nuts and molasses from Liverpool.

Grain from the Isle of White.

Sand and gravel from Southampton.

Tar from Jersey.

Gypsum from Dundalk.

Peat Moss from Ireland.







Principal exports:

China clay.

Granite chippings.

Scrap metals.

Fertilisers.

Broken glass.

Live pigs and cattle for slaughter.

Coke and coke breeze.







Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

Asia and Australia	Europe	America	Africa
Aden	Amus	Brazil	Algiers
Alger	Antwerp	New Orleans	Bahar
Singapore	Amsterdam	Halifax	Oran
	Archangel	Port Alberni	Sfax
	Brant	San Francisco	
	Bremen	Quebec	
	Bilbao	Trinidad	
	Bayonne	Vancouver	
	Bonn	Victoria B.C.	
	Cherbourg		
	Cadix		
	Copenhagen		
	Concord		
	Dunkirk		
	Delfzijl		
	Foscar		
	Frederiksbund		
	Gibraltar		
	Göthenburg		
	Ghent		
	Gravelines		
	Hamburg		
	Havre		
	Monfleur		
	Hogesund		
	Kiel		
	Köln		
	Kaliningrad		
	Le Havre		
	Leningrad		
	Lisbon		
	La Pallice		
	Malta		
	Marlaix		
	Montluçon		
	Nantes		
	Odessa		
	Passages		
	Quimper		
	Roscoff		
	Rouen		
	Rotterdam		
	St. Pierre		
	Tige		
	Vieux		
	Yverdon		







## Section IV

### Inland Barge Traffic

There is no inland barge traffic at the port.

## Section V

### Water Supply

(a) The source of water supply for the Port, British Transport Docks, Victoria Wharves, Cattedown and Sutton Harbour is from Plymouth Corporation Water Department hydrants on the wharves.

(b) Shipping is supplied with water from hydrants on the wharves or from R.N. Dockyard water-boats.

## Section VI

### Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952 to 1953.

#### (1) List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).

A list of seaports and airports in which a confirmed or suspected quarantinable disease has occurred is supplied weekly by the World Health Organisation, Geneva. Copies are typed and sent to the Chief Pilot, H.M. Customs, and to all the Boarding Medical Officers.

#### (2) Radio Messages. (Regulation 13).

(a) There are no arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships arriving from foreign ports to enter the district except for foreign warships and Royal Navy Auxiliary vessels which are in radio communication with the Plymouth Naval Base, and report their state of health prior to entering the port. Other vessels anchor in the Sound which is a recognised mooring station and are there boarded.

#### Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2).

(b) Vessels landing passengers, and any other vessels requiring the attention of the Port Medical Officer, usually wireless their time of arrival at the Port and the state of health on board to the agents. The latter then inform the Port Health Authority, and, in the case of vessels landing passengers, give the time the vessel is expected to anchor in the Sound. The Medical Officer boards the vessel by means of the Port Health Launch. If there are any infectious conditions aboard, the vessel is required to give preliminary radio warning either to the Port Health Authority or to the local Agents in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

#### (3) Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14(1)(b)).

Vessels entering the Port requiring the Port Medical Officer, fly the appropriate flag and are boarded in the sound by the Medical Officer and the Inspector by means of the Port Health Launch, which is prepared to land cases if necessary.







After office hours, information concerning ships entering the Port flying a signal for the Port Medical Officer is received from the Queen's Harbourmaster, R.N. Customs or Royal Naval authorities.

(4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Seaportcliffe Bay in Plymouth Sound is used as a mooring station in the case of vessels which intend entering the Docks.

As the larger liners lie off Cornard Bay or just inside the Breakwater, the usual anchorage is regarded as a mooring station.

(5) Arrangements for:

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox).

Cases of infectious disease landed from vessels are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Cases suffering from Tuberculosis may be accommodated by arrangement at the Mount Gould Orthopaedic Hospital, Plymouth, if unfit to travel to their home address.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

Where necessary, the names and intended destinations of passengers disembarking from a ship who are contacts of infectious disease are forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health in the appropriate districts.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

When cases of infectious disease are removed from ships in the motor launch ARDUS to hospital ashore, the quarters on board are disinfected with formalin.

Clothing, bedding, etc., are conveyed to the Scott Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

## Section VII

### Smallpox

(1) Isolation Hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone: Liskeard 2305), staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth (Telephone: Plymouth 51437); Physician Superintendent - Dr. D.F. Johnson.

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for geriatric cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

(2) Arrangements for the Transport of Cases to Hospital.

The launch ARDUS of the Plymouth Port Health Authority, based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone: Plymouth 63000, Ext. 2229 by day and Plymouth 63000, Ext. 2123 at night and week-ends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore. The launch is equipped with a radio transmitter and receiver linked to the Plymouth Ambulance Headquarters.







ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone: Plymouth 2,404) are available to transport cases to hospital.

(3) Smellpox Consultants:

Dr. F. H. St. John-Brooks,  
West Cornwall Hospital,  
Penzance, Cornwall.

Office Telephone: Penzance 2302  
Home Telephone: Cocksells 336

Dr. J. Macrae,  
Bass Green Isolation Hospital,  
Bass Green, Bristol.

Office Telephone: Bristol 34163

(4) Facilities for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Smellpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Office, Plymouth.

Specimens are forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W.9.





### Section VIII

#### Veneral Disease.

When required the Port Health Inspector passes on information to ships' officers regarding the times of attendance and location of the Veneral Disease Clinics at the Plymouth General Hospital (Freedom Fields Section).

The days and hours of attendance for males are as follows:

Monday	6.00	to	7.30 p.m.
Tuesday	10.00	to	11.30 a.m.
Wednesday	10.30	to	12.00 noon
Thursday	6.00	to	7.30 p.m.
Saturday	6.00	to	7.30 p.m.

During the year 92 British and 17 foreign seamen were treated at the Veneral Disease Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows:

British	92
Dutch	5
Norwegian	2
American	1
German	1
Canadian	1
Greek	1
Italian	1
Maltese	1
Polish	1
Portuguese	1
Russian	1
Spanish	1
Total:	<u>109</u>





LIST OF FINDINGS

Port Health Authority

Section II - Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships - 1965.

Table - B

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned.
		Primary	Other	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Primary Tuberculosis	Nil	One	One
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	None	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	None	Nil	Nil	Nil

That X-ray examination of contacts along the crew of the ship in which the case of tuberculosis occurred did not reveal any secondary cases.





### Section X

Observations on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships.

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

### Section XI

Measures taken against Ships Infected with or Suspected for Plague.

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the port during the year.

### Section XII

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports.

(1) All ships arriving at the various wharves from foreign ports are boarded by the Port Health Inspector or Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crews and searches are carried out for evidence of rat infestation. Docksides, wharves and warehouses in dock areas are under constant surveillance for evidence of rodent infestation and Foreman Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where evidence of infestation is found immediate treatment is initiated by the Rodent Operator.

(2) All rats caught are destroyed and some specimens found are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

(3) If found necessary, deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas. These fumigations are carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

The names of Commercial Contractors who have carried out the fumigation of vessels at this port are:

1. Fumigation Services Ltd., Barking, Essex.
2. London Fumigation Co., London, E.C.3.

Small infestations are dealt with by the Port Health Authority's Rodent Operator using "barfuran".

Observations confirm that rat-proofing principles are adopted in the construction of all modern vessels inspected.





Table I

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports:

NIL.

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
Black rats	NIL
Brown rats	47
Sent for examination	1
Infected with plague	NIL

Number of rats presumed killed, based on the amount of poison bait consumed: 190.

Number of mice presumed killed: 100.





# CITY OF FLYHOLLS

## Port Health Authority

Number of Permitting Certificates and Permitting Inspection Certificates issued during the year ending 31st December, 1965 for ships from foreign ports.

TABLE 2.

After Sanitation with		Number of Permitting Certificates issued			Number of Permitting Inspection Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
		After trapping	After poisoning	Total		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
-	-	-	1	1	42	43

Reversion of Ships by Ports Act, 1943,  
(Application to Shipping) Order, 1954.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.





## Section VIII

### Inspection of Ships for Seaismen

Table 9

#### Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	Complied with
1,461 vessels	-	6	6





## Section XIV

### Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

Under the above regulations, the following are prohibited areas for the gathering of mussels, cockles, winkles, limpets and other shell-fish for human consumption by an order made in 1936:-

Loos Lake  
The Hamoaze, including West End  
St. John's Lake  
Off Terpoint Institution  
Weston Hill Lake  
Off Rat's Island  
Mouth of St. Germans River  
Off Saltash  
River Tamar and its tributaries.

Notice boards are maintained in these areas warning persons that the taking of shell-fish for sale for human consumption is forbidden.

No formal action has been necessary under the regulations.

All oysters from the Teale Oyster Fisheries are subjected to a cleansing process before sale.





## Section XV

### Medical inspection of Aliens.

(1) List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment:

Dr. T. Peirson  
Dr. G.B. Carter  
Dr. N.R. Matheson  
Dr. L.N. Trethowan  
Dr. T.A. Lloyd-Jones (resigned 30th November, 1965)

(2) List of other staff engaged on this work:

Nil.

(3) Organisation of work:

All ships carrying aliens are boarded by the Medical Officer during the course of duty under the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952 to 1963. At the same time, aliens are inspected as they pass before the Immigration Officer, and the Medical Officer is available for consultation as necessary with the Immigration Officer.

Most of the work in connection with the Medical Inspection of Aliens is carried out by the Deputy Port Medical Officer, the remaining Officers being available for relief duties.

(4) Nature and amount of aliens traffic:

With the cessation of Passenger Liner traffic the majority of aliens using the port are short-stay visitors.

During the year the number of incoming aliens was 862 and the number of outgoing aliens was 793.

(5) Accommodation for medical inspection and examination:

A room for medical examination is provided in the Port Health Office.





Reports and Certificates for aliens medically examined:

Nature of report or certificate		Total number of reports and certificates issued	Aliens not permitted to land
A.	Unsound mind or mentally defective	1 *	1 *
B(1)	Undesirable for medical reasons	None	None
B(2)	(a) Inability to support	None	None
	(b) Likely to require medical treatment	None	None
	(c) Inability to support and likely to require medical treatment.	None	None
C.	Conditionally landed for further medical examination	None	None
Totals		1	1

\* Note: This certificate was in respect of a member of the crew of the Royal Netherlands Navy ship "Hr. Ms. Z. 101" who had been admitted to the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth. It was subsequently ruled that this person was exempt from the operation of the Aliens Order under para. 24. (3) (b).





# Commonwealth Immigrants Act, 1962.

## Medical Examination of Commonwealth Immigrants.

### List of Medical Inspectors of Commonwealth Immigrants:

Dr. T. Palmer  
 Dr. G. H. Carter  
 Dr. T. E. Forrest  
 Dr. H. R. Matheson  
 Dr. L. H. Trethowan  
 Dr. F. A. Lloyd-Jones (resigned 30th November, 1965)  
 Dr. Enid Atkins

It has, in the past, been possible to make satisfactory arrangements on board the ships concerned for carrying out the medical examination of Commonwealth immigrants referred by the Immigration Officers, with little delay in clearing the vessels.

- (1) Total number of Commonwealth citizens subject to control under the Act arriving during the year .. .. . 2.
- (2) Total number of Commonwealth citizens medically examined .. .. 1.
- (3) Reports and Certificates for Commonwealth citizens medically examined:-

	Nature of Report or Certificate	Number of reports or certificates issued	Number of Commonwealth citizens refused entry
A	Suffering from mental disorder	None	None
B(1)	Unsuitable for medical reasons	None	None
B(2)	Likely to require major medical treatment	None	None
	Totals	None	None





## Section XVI

### Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious diseases:

Disposal of the dead is carried out under conditions prescribed by the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the nature of the disease. The Public Mortuary is available to accommodate bodies if necessary. Cremation is advocated and is available locally.

Food Inspection During the year, 199 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 and 1938.

There were 154 from foreign ports and 45 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of:

						Tons	Cnts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Grapes	..	..	..	..	..	12	8	2	14	0
Lemons	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	20	0
Chestnuts	..	..	..	..	..		9	3	8	0
Flour	..	..	..	..	..		9	0	0	0
Confectionery	..	..	..	..	..		2	0	30	0
Plums	..	..	..	..	..		3	1	11	0
Strawberries	..	..	..	..	..			1	25	0
Preserved meats, tinned	..	..	..	..	..		3	0	7	14
Fruit and fruit juices, tinned	..	..	..	..	..		6	2	24	8
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..		1	0	22	14
Lard	..	..	..	..	..			1	26	0
Fish, tinned	..	..	..	..	..			1	14	7
Margarine	..	..	..	..	..				24	0
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..				22	0
Chicken, tinned	..	..	..	..	..				16	12
Vegetables, tinned	..	..	..	..	..				14	14
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..				13	0
Ox Tongue, tinned	..	..	..	..	..				6	0
Ravioli	..	..	..	..	..				2	10
Rice Pudding, tinned	..	..	..	..	..				1	2
TOTAL:						15	9	5	13	15

Six non-statutory notices were served on Masters of Vessels under the Bait Hooks (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1938. No further action was necessary in each case.

No action was taken under the following Regulations:

Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1936.  
Public Health (Preservatives etc., in Food) Regulations, 1923 & 1934.  
Food Hygiene (Boats, Carriers etc.,) Regulations, 1960.  
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.







The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth:-

Date	Nature of Specimen	From	Examined for	Result
28.1.65	Water	Millbay Docks	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
"	"	m/v Sharron	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
18.3.65	"	Drakes Island	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
"	"	Drakes Island	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
"	"	Devils Point	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
20.8.65	"	Drakes Island	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
"	"	Drakes Island	B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil
30.11.65	"	Millbay Docks - 1. Cork Shed 2. Port Health Office 3. Shed 20	B. Coli. B. Coli. B. Coli.	B. Coli - nil B. Coli - nil B. Coli - nil
28.9.65	One Brown Rat	Cole Bros. Timber Works, Millbay Docks	B. Pestis	Past. Pestis not isolated.

#### Items submitted for Chemical Analysis.

A sample tin of chopped pork from a consignment imported from Hungary was submitted to the Public Analyst for examination because of staining of the inside of the tin and contents. The Analyst reported that the staining was caused by sulphide of iron and not harmful to health.

Two water samples were submitted for chemical analysis. One from a hydrant in Millbay Docks was reported as being of a normal chemical character; the other, from m/v Sharron, was reported to contain caustic lime in sufficient concentration as to render the water significantly alkaline in reaction and this was considered to be due to recent cement washing of the internal surfaces of the tank. Flushing of the tank considerably reduced the abnormal alkalinity.







Infectious Diseases

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1965.

Cases landed at The Port.

One case of infectious disease and thirteen cases of non-infectious disease or injury were landed of whom twelve were admitted to hospital.



